

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The March 1, 2004 Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, the title and specification have been amended, claims are cancelled, amended and added, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

TITLE

In the Office Action the title of the invention is objected to by the Examiner. In response, the title of the invention is amended in a sincere effort to be more clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. In view of the amendment of the title, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the title are respectfully requested. If, even in view of the amendment of the title, the Examiner maintains the objection thereto, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to propose a new title which is acceptable to the Examiner.

SPECIFICATION

In the Office Action the Examiner requests that the specification be checked and that any minor errors be corrected. In response, the specification has been amended to clarify the description of the present claimed invention. No new matter is added.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's indication that claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form is acknowledged and appreciated. In response, claim 1 has been amended to include limitations from claim 4. Accordingly, claim 4 has been cancelled.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by USP 4,453,097 (Lordo). Claims 1 and 2 are also rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by USP 4,508,988 (Reiss et al.). Claims 3, 5, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Reiss et al. in view of French Patent No. 2617345 (Brosse). Claim 7 is rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over

Reiss et al. and Brosse, and further in view of USP 5,668,429
(Boyd, Jr. et al.).

In response, as stated above, claim 1 is amended to include limitations from claim 4 and claim 8 is cancelled. In addition, claim 2 is cancelled and claim 3 is amended to correspond to the description at page 10, lines 2-4 and page 19, line 25 - page 20, line 6 of the present application.

In view of the foregoing amendments, claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record and claims 3 and 5-7 are allowable in view of their dependence on claim 1 and because the references of record do not disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations set forth in claims 3 and 5-7.

INVENTORSHIP

Applicants request that Motoyuki Tanaka and Masaki Miyoshi be cancelled as inventors in connection with the present application since they are not inventors of the invention now being claimed. Submitted herewith is an Amendment and Request Deleting Correctly Named Original Persons Who Are Not Inventors Of The Invention Now Being Claimed (37 CFR 1.48(b)). Also submitted is the Patent Office processing fee under 37 CFR 1.117(i) of \$130.00. If any additional fees are due or if any

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Amendment dated May 21, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 1, 2004

overpayment has been made, please charge or credit our Deposit
Account No. 06-1378 for such sum.

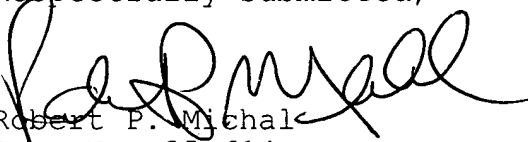
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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the
passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the
Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is
support for a contrary view.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or
recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the
undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt
action.

Respectfully submitted,



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Encl.: Amendment and Request Deleting Correctly Named Original
Persons Who Are Not Inventors Of The Invention Now Being
Claimed (37 CFR 1.48(b))